



Every person can use their gift and talents to change the world!

I use to have a favorite bumper sticker on my navy blue Toyota van. It said JESUS: Changing the world one life at a time. I loved that sticker! I love more that Jesus does this every day through people like you. I know one person who was born again reading C.S. Lewis arguments for Christianity. I know another person who was using the bathroom when they came across a Chick tract. Chick tracts are cartoon "turn or burn" pamphlets from the 70's and 80's. They came into God's kingdom via Chick Tracts. Hard to believe but true. I know another person who was born again after a supernatural encounter with Jesus while on LSD. That person was me. A friend prayed I would meet Jesus in a undeniable way through my dreams or through drugs. He "witnessed" to me but I was not interested as I had sinning to do. So he turned to prayer and God answered!

An intellectual seeking to convince the skeptics. A edgy cartoonist seeking to shock people in the kingdom. A non-judgemental friend believing God could use drugs to reach his friend. They all partnered with God to use their gifts and talents to change the world.

You have unique gifts and talents that could change the world! Do you believe that? God does and so do I.

MUCH OF THE CHRISTIANITY I'VE SEEN HOLDS GOD'S PEOPLE BACK

I won't speculate why, but I see the evidence all around me. People who could be living extraordinary lives choose not to. They live small, fearful, oppressed and depressed lives. Living for the weekend just like everyone else. This is NOT what God intended but if you don't check yourself your going to wreak yourself.

God creates life everywhere He goes. His creative ways are endless to inject hope, light, love and life into the world. His most creative means to change the world is you!

Much of my life I believed a lie. I believed I was waiting on God to release me to pursue the dreams. I recently came across a song I wrote years ago. It was as if God was saying to me, Don't you see? Your not waiting on me, I'm waiting on you to turn your belief into action.

"I'm coming out, I'm breaking through into wide open spaces

Out on the edge walking by faith, no longer hiding in safe places

Only to find, You've been waiting on me all this time

The smile I see on your face, is now on mine!"

You cannot stay in safe places and serve others with your God given gifts and talents. It will take RISK. It will take FAITH.

"Just as each of you have received a special gift (a spiritual talent, an ability graciously given by God), use it in serving one another as good stewards of God's multifaceted grace (faithfully using the diverse, varied gifts and abilities granted to Christians by God's unmerited favor)."- 1Peter 4:10 (AMP)

The Greek word for "multifaceted" is Poikilos. The definition is various, of different colors, and diverse. What a beautiful way to express God's grace. Did you see the relationship between our gift and talents and reaching the world with Gods grace?

A primary way God is extending his grace to the world is through your unique gifts and talents. That grace is not just about forgiveness of sins. It is about so much more! God's grace revels beauty, releases hope, replaces sorrow with laughter, and so much more.

TIME for ACTION

Tomorrow when you awake start a new ritual. Out loud come in agreement with 1 peter 4:10. There is a sprititual principle when we verbalize something

out loud it has power. Paul set up a pattern not only for salvation but for establishing God's truth in your life in Romans 10:10. If you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart then you will transform.

Every Morning confess with you mouth and believe in your heart:

- I received the special gift of <name the gifts, talents> from God
- I will serve others with my <name the gift, talent>
- When I <do the verb of my gift, talent > God will extend his grace to one person
- I will experience God's JOY as I step out even more in my <the Verb of my gift, talent>

Expect oposition when you start to step out in your gifts and talents!

I sinned. I don't exactly remember what I did but I remember how I felt. Church was ending and they called us up front if we wanted to pray. I rushed to the front of the church, hit my knees and buried my face on the floor. I was groveling. I was sincere but I was a mess. Then I heard the Lord speak, "Stand Up". Then I heard it again and again "Stand Up, Stand Up, Stand Up."

In disbelief, I hobbled my way up to a standing position. As soon as I was standing, it was as if God took his right hand and put it on the side of my head covering my ear and pulled me into His chest in a hug. I felt the forgiving embrace of my Father. It was tangible. I felt like a son vs a subject fearfully approaching an anger king with bad news. I felt dignity and acceptance. It was a amazing contrast. Convicted yet hopeful and sorrowful yet deeply loved.

Then he went on to say to me, "Ive made you to stand out". And so it was. Everyone else kneeling at the church altar and there I was standing. Much of my life, I have been the odd one out. The one that stands out from the crowd. As the chinese proverb goes, "the tallest blade of grass gets cut first". As I stood out from the crowd people have called me rebellious, not a team player, a cheat, anti-authority, unqaulified, undeserving, antagonist and the list goes on. I have had to overcome these labels to be who God made me to be, one who stands out. The pressure to sink into my chair, shut up and disappear is always with me. It is one of Satan's strategies against how God made me to be. But I fight back with his truth:

***WE ARE NOT OF THEM THAT SHRINK BACK- PAUL
HEB. 10:39 (ASV)***

As the Bible says, 'Don't be surprised by trials of many kinds.' –James. When you start to make forward progress on the dreams God put into you, expect opposition. Expect attacks. Expect trouble at work, at home, in finances, with friends, etc... Especially when you first start out and your commitment to change only has weak roots. The Bible talks about the 'enemy coming in like a flood'. The devil will try to overwhelm you "like a flood" in hopes you will give up and quit. Quit on these lofty unrealistic dreams. Quit on God. Believe "if it's God then why is this so hard?" Quit on believing God is for you and loves you deeply.

TIME for ACTION

God warns us not to be ignorant of the Devils schemes (Plans, Tactics, Approaches). You combat ignorance with study.

- Study New Testament keywords: Warfare, Battle, Authority, Satan, and Overcome. This will arm you and prepare for the next round. Take the time, don't rush.
- Study Old Testament keywords Fight, War, Battle. Read the full stories of how the Israelites engaged in Battle. Read how God delivered them in different ways in different battle. This will give insight for when the enemy come at you.
- Read my [BLOG](#): Playing Hurt. Seek to learn where Satan started the attack on your life when you were young. Go back to go forward.

You need a community who will champion God in you!

If I did not have my band of brother's community, I would have quit by now. Community is not easy but you have to push through the obstacles as mentioned above to take part. It is worth it! As my Friend Rob says, "Must be present to win". I apparently don't leave good first impressions. One guy told me "When I first met you I thought your were a know-it-all a-hole." We went on to become close friends as he continued to say "Now that Ive gotten to know you, I like you". I liked him because I do have the tendency to be a "know-it-all" but he did not write me off. As I continued to hang around God

in my life to start to shine. He noticed and spoke up. Community lets you live honestly. You DON'T have to put your best face on. We all have ugly sides, heck you think God didn't know that. Yet a Godly community will see you from God's perspective and pursue that.

***LEND IN WHEN CONFRONTED ON WAYS YOU
ARE HOLD GOD'S GRACE BACK THROUGH YOUR
LIFE***

For 'faithful are the wounds of a friend (who corrects out of Love and concern)- Pr 27:6

We are our best within community.

TIME for ACTION!

- Join the [Kindling fire Facebook Group](#) today! At bottom of the Kindling fire website is a link for you to join. This community is for people seeking to live out their God given talent and abilities! Get all the encouragement and inspiration you can while you're on this journey.
- Seek a community close to where you live. If you don't know of one, start one. Meetup.com has been successful at helping people with similar interest get together. Take the leap and start a group at your church.
- Go to <http://www.zoweh.org/redemptive-community>. This 1-Pager is the best definition of a Godly community I know.

Closing Thoughts

I'll be honest with you. I don't know what I'm doing. I don't have a grand strategy of where all this is going but I know I'm compelled. I'm compelled that God's people are set free to live out extraordinary lives. There is a place for you. There is a critical role for you to play. God is NOT short on positions on the team. Don't believe the lie that the only way to serve God is to be a Minister. Does it seem right that God would only have a plan for 15 Ministries out of a church of 5,000 people?! What an injustice! Your life has more weight and meaning than you realize. That is why I do what I do to remind you of that truth.

"It is my Father's glory that you bear much fruit" - JESUS (JOHN 15:8)

God is not trying to hold you back, he is trying to set you free! It honors him to be fruitful in every aspect of your life. To have meaning in every aspect of your life. To extend his grace to others in every aspect of your life. God is a God of abundance and its time you start running toward this abundant fruitful life with all your might.

We can certainly do it! – Caleb

Numbers 13:30

If you'd like coaching along the way, let me know. I have a process to help with

- Identifying and Honing in on your gifts
- Going back to go forward
- Walking in community

If interested, you can reach me at: troy@thekindlingfire.com

